

1884 to 1934



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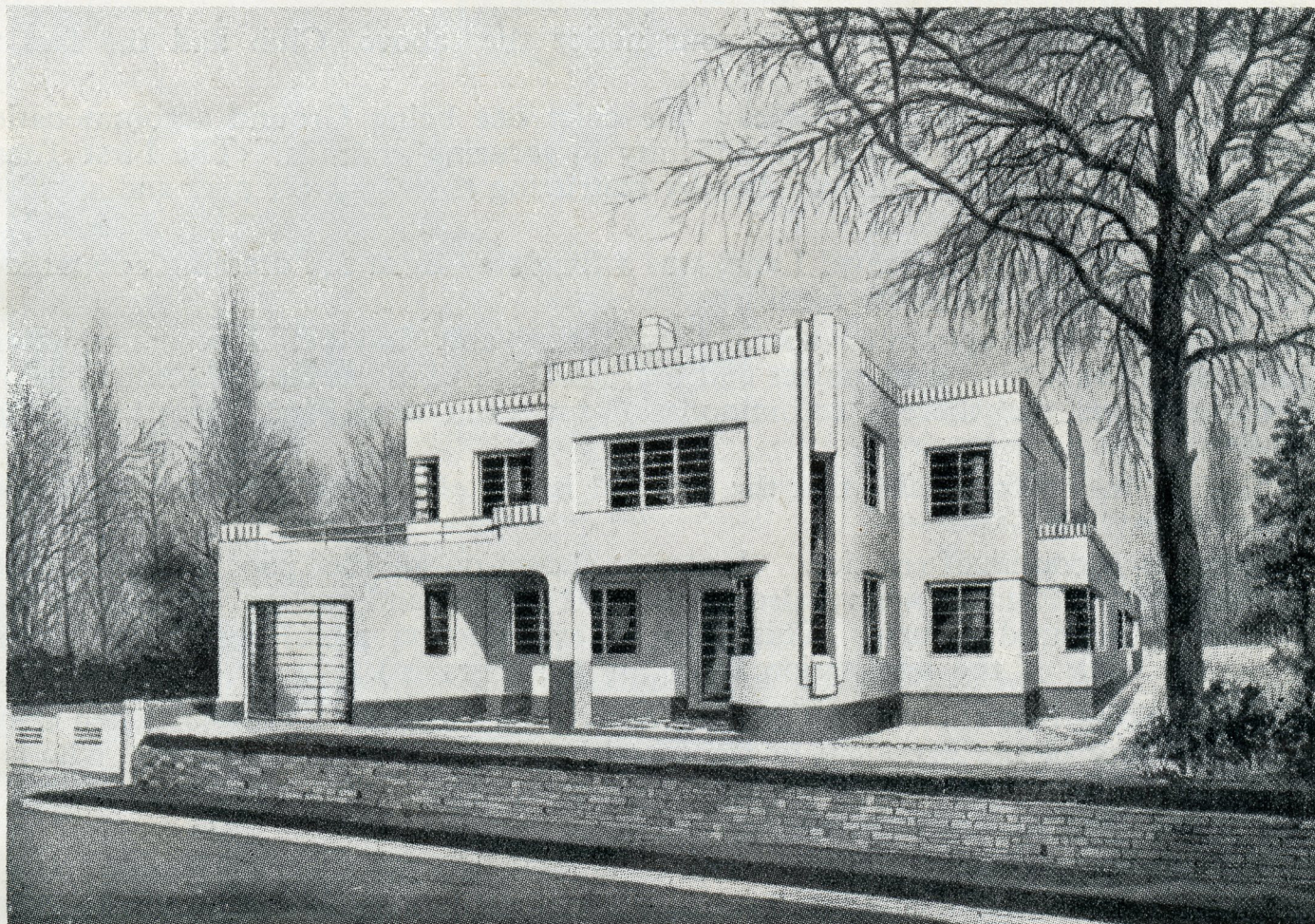
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WILMSLOW RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

1884 ————— to ————— 1934

FOREWORD

THE object of this booklet is to bring to your notice the above Club and the fact that it has been established 50 years.

From the outset it has had many troubles, the chief one being Ground accommodation. When the Club was re-formed in 1923, it had great difficulty in securing grounds. The First Team Ground, off Land Lane, was many yards too narrow, thereby restricting three-quarter play and spoiling the open game.

The Second Team Ground, in Gravel Lane, was a long way from the dressing accommodation, and cost the Club a great deal in transport facilities.

A special Committee was appointed about 1925, to try and find better accommodation. At last this special Committee has achieved its object and a ground has been purchased adjoining Pownall Hall. The area is about 13 acres, and there is accommodation for a full-sized First Team Ground and a good Second Team Ground.

We think that we may safely claim that the Ground is one of the prettiest, as it adjoins the famous beauty spot, known as The Carrs.

A new Pavilion is in course of erection. A plan is shown on another page in this booklet, and will be equipped with a Bar. The Club have also leased part of the land for the building of a Badminton Hall, to contain two full-sized Courts. This Hall, is available on rental for those interested. (See advertisement on the back of the application form for membership).

The Club are looking forward to the Opening Match, on October 3rd, 1934, when they are to be honoured by the presence of the President of the Cheshire Union, Mr James Baxter, who is also a Past President of the Rugby Union, and Mr T J Bradburn, President of the Lancashire County Union and of the Manchester and District Referees' Society.

The purchase of the new Ground has, of course, necessitated the Club borrowing money, but it is felt that a district such as Wilmslow, could well support a Rugby Club and in the opinion of the Committee, the price paid for the land is very reasonable, bearing in mind that there are two River Valleys in the district, it is extremely difficult to obtain a level field, convenient to the Village, except at building land price, which, of course, is beyond the means of the Club.

The Committee hope that this booklet will interest you, and that we may have your support.

Opening of New Ground and Pavilion



THE President of the Cheshire County Union, Mr James Baxter has kindly consented to open the new Ground and Pavilion, on Wednesday evening, October 3rd, 1934.

All those interested in Rugby Football will be welcome. After the official opening, a game will be played between a Wilmslow XV and Mr Stewart Livesey's XV. It is expected the teams will include some International and County players.

After the game, a Dinner, in honour of the visit of the President, will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Alderley Edge. Will all those desirous of attending this Dinner, please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, or Assistant Hon. Secretaries.

Further details with times will be issued to members later

Appeal for Donations and Subscriptions.

THE estimated cost of the new Ground and Pavilion is Sixteen Hundred Pounds (£1,600 0s. 0d.).

Up to the present date the Club has received

Loan from the Cheshire Rugby Union

Donation from James Crosby and Sons, Ltd., Builders, Pownall Park, Wilmslow

Subscriptions and Donations from Members

£100 0 0

£100 0 0

£244 6 11

Two-thirds is lent at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}\%$, repayable over 20 years.

The land is let for grazing purposes during the Summer which produces a small rental.

The Club has prepared a scheme whereby a plan is displayed outside the Railway Hotel, Wilmslow splitting the Ground into small squares, which are offered for sale. By this scheme, it is possible for the smallest subscriber to take an interest.

Note.—Motor cars can only approach Ground via Carrwood Road, Pownall Park. The Bridle Road from Altrincham Road to Styal Road is for pedestrians only
There is a car park on the ground

The Club fixtures included :—

Swinton A," Salford "A," Runcorn A," Stockport "A," Broughton "A," Manchester A," Manchester Rangers A," and First teams of Altrincham, Hazel Grove, Cheadle, Brinnington, Blackley Staleybridge, Staley Cheetham Hill, and The Western

Washing accommodation consisted of cold water from a pump—rather different to the requirements of the present day

Fletchers' Field used to be the home of our Sporting Events and has many happy memories for the last generation. The Foresters' Sports an annual event of great importance,



W.R.U.F.C. Team. Photo 1887

Back Row, left to right— G. HAMILTON, F DODSON R. JAFFREY R. POTTS.

Middle Row—S. JESSOP, G. NEWMAN, G. BUSHILL, J MCGANN, F BUSHILL, A. PRICE, F. GIBSON, M. JAFFREY

Front Row—T BATTERSBY W MCGANN, F GREEN, W BLUNDELL, (Capt.), J BARBER, J SUMNER.



W Athletic R.U.F.C. Team. Photo, 1895.

Back Row, left to right—H. ROYLE, J RHODES, J ARDEN W JONES, H. LOMAS.

Middle Row—G. BIRTLES, G. HOUGH, H. WORTH, J PERCIVAL, R. KERSHAW R. WILLIAMS, F ROYLE, J ROBERTS, W. LOMAS, S. DALTON, W ROYLE.

Front Row J BIRTLES, D. MASSEY G. BOWER, F WILLIAMS, C. H. WILLIAMS (Capt.), B. HAMER, J WILLIAMS, J MCCARTNEY C. BIRTLES (Hon. Sec.).

and financial success, brought good crowds and prominent runners from all over the County This form of sport might again be revived by the Wilmslow Rugby Union Football Club, with benefit.

We had our Derby days with Sale, Altrincham, Cheadle, going by wagonette. Very amusing incidents happened, especially on the homeward journey We often lost one or two who had to walk.

The Old Club wish the new Club good luck in their venture.

1923—t o—1934

BY AN OLD SECRETARY OF THE CLUB.

IT was in 1923 that the desire to play "the best game ever" in Wilmslow reached the point when Mr James Baxter then President of the Cheshire Union, and who has also in the interim, been a very honoured President of the English Union, felt that there was sufficient enthusiasm in the district, to allow his name to go forward at the request of local enthusiasts to call past and present players together with a view to forming a new club in Wilmslow.

The Inaugural Meeting was held on March 27th, 1923, at which many well-known ex-players and prominent "locals" were present.

Amongst those who were present it is interesting to see the following names

J. Hunter—Vice-President of the Lancashire County Union and President of the Manchester R.U.F.C.

C. H. Williams—who needs no introduction to our Rugby world in Lancashire and Cheshire, both as player (of the old Wilmslow Club) and later as a referee.

A. E. Allmark, H. Buxton, R. C. G. Hayes, Dr W. B. Holdsworth, F. R. Kitton, C. J. Long, L. Makinson, C. A. Oliver, B. L. Proctor, W. W. Reynolds, W. S. Simpson, E. J. Smith and Tom Warburton, all of whom are referred to in our list of "Notables."

The first General Meeting was held on June 4th, 1923, Mr James Baxter presiding.

At a later meeting in July of the same year, it was announced that a ground had been secured in Land Lane—a lot of the credit for this being due to the assistance of Mr W. W. Reynolds, whose figure is well known in our district and needs no further introduction.

The first match took place on Saturday, September 22nd, 1923, and no more fitting opponents could have been found than the famous Kersal Club, who won by 21 points to 5 points. The Wilmslow try being scored by J. C. Mather. Amongst those who played in this game were

G. E. Baines, who has now returned to Committee work.

J. E. Earle, who has since Captained the Club and although he is not now a member of the Club is still giving of his best to Heaton Moor.

Dr W. B. Holdsworth, an excellent referee and a Life Member of the Club.

C. A. Oliver who later captained the side and gave great assistance to the Club in its early days.

B. L. Proctor, who has also returned to Committee work and is just as enthusiastic as ever.

E. J. Smith, who captained the side for the first two seasons and who was largely responsible for the remarkable progress of such a junior side.

The first Club game to be won was on December 1st, 1923, when the 2nd XV defeated an Eccles 2nd XV by 9 points to nil.

The first season must be considered satisfactory as out of 32 games played, 3 were won, 3 drawn and 26 lost.

It is particularly gratifying to see that very early in its existence the Club decided to foster its "Nursery" and the first Public Schoolboy Game was held on December 26th, 1923—another on January 1st, 1924. Included in these games was W. B. Clegg, (Kings' Canterbury) who later played for Guy's Hospital and as full back in a Cheshire Trial.

On January 16th, 1925, a Grand Amateur Boxing Tournament was held in the Drill Hall, Wilmslow, which was a tremendous success, everybody thoroughly enjoying themselves. Our President, the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, K.C.M.G., presented the prizes and also gave a Silver Cup for the winner of the best bout. The referee was Major J. Bennett, O.B.E., T.D., and the Timekeeper Commander Best, D.S.O., R.N. During the evening the Band of the 52nd Brigade Royal Field Artillery played to those present, for which we had to thank Lt. Col. F. J. Gidlow Jackson, M.C., R.A.

On December 27th, 1926, we had our first game with Sale at Brooklands, and after a magnificent fight we had to acknowledge defeat by 14 points to 3, (on March 7th, 1931, we were defeated 23—6) a very satisfactory result for a Club in its fourth season. This article would be very incomplete if we did not mention how much we have appreciated the kindness that has always been extended to us by our big "East Cheshire" brothers, and before long we hope to be able to "offer" them 1st XV fixtures and "give" them a really good licking.

So far the "bright side" of activities have been disclosed, but like every other adventure we had our "downs" as well and it is very disappointing to find that early in our existence efforts were unavailingly made to hold Annual Dinners—that in February, 1927 we should find a minute to the effect that one of these be cancelled "owing to lack of support from the playing members."

On April 25th, 1927 a minute was passed to the effect that "the Club should send a letter of appreciation to Mr A. W. Lowe for his hospitality in giving a Hot Pot after the Sale game" and a similar expression of gratitude was extended to Mr H. Buxton for a similar kindness on March 6th, 1929. These two occasions marked the largest attendances at any function of its kind held by the Club—this is disappointing—and we trust that in future playing members will rally round at these functions in the same way that our Kersal friends did at their last Dinner when 67 were present.

In April, 1927 our County Representative had great pleasure in seconding the application of our neighbouring rivals, Macclesfield, for membership to the Cheshire County Union.

In 1927 an arrangement was come to with the owners of our Club room (The Railway Hotel) whereby bath accommodation was provided, the owners and the Club to pay 50% each.

A very interesting minute appears on December 3rd, 1928, this creating another milestone in the history of the Club.

That the heartiest congratulations be extended to Mr H.L.T Ritchings on his being chosen to play for Cheshire (v Durham) and also to Mr H. V Middleton on his selection as reserve." It is very interesting to note that Middleton actually played in this game.



1st XV 1933/4

T WARDLE, Groundsman, W W H. RICKETTS; H. HOPE; C. K. McLEAN;
A. S. HEAP P A. HEWITT, G. B. GETHING, Hon. Sec.

L. R. J. WILLIAMS, J C. HOUGH, A. E. TURNER I. H. D. HODGES
T P HOUGH C. O. G. WILSON G. M. CORLETT.

A. MILLER S. E. HUME; C. E. WHITE.

Absent—G. R. BYERS, Captain and Hon. Treas.

1935 International Fixtures, 1934/35.

January	5	England v The Rest at Twickenham.
	19	England v Wales at Twickenham
February	9	England v Ireland at Twickenham
March	16	England v Scotland at Edinburgh

1934 Cheshire County Fixtures, 1934/35.

Oct. 10	Junior Trial at Sale
17	Senior Trial at Birkenhead Park
27	Cheshire v Northumberland at Birkenhead Park.
Nov 3	Cheshire v Lancashire at Waterloo
17	Cheshire v Cumberland at Birkenhead Park
24	Cheshire v Yorkshire at Birkenhead Park
Dec. 8	Cheshire v Durham in Durham

The first of an unbroken series of Dances was held on January 16th, 1929, and thanks are due to B. Thorp for being largely responsible for making the first of these Annual events such a great success.

Three other interesting dates are worthy of note.

MARCH 18th, 1929—When we decided to change the colours.

OCTOBER 27th, 1930—When we purchased the flares to enable us to start evening practices.

JULY 28th, 1931—When we decided to do everything in our power to support and assist Rugger which was being taken up by the "Schools" at Cheadle Hulme—We have never regretted this step.

Another date which stands out in the annals of the Club is April 13th, 1932, when a Special General Meeting decided to take steps to arrange for the amalgamation of the W.R.U.F.C. with the Davenport R.U.F.C.

At the time this caused a lot of harm to *both* Clubs—Had it come off there are those who still believe that it could have been made into a very fine organisation—However, it was probably a blessing in disguise as it brought home to those local players that they were not justifying their existence, and since then they have responded nobly and the result is the marvellous response to our efforts to obtain our present new home at Pownall Park.

Throughout our existence we have always put on record our sincerest appreciation of the attention and help that we have received from the Press both local and of old—we wish to endorse this appreciation.

Now let us give you some figures.

Season.	Total Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	Pts. for	Pts. agst.	Captains.
1923/24	32	3	3	26			1923/4—24/5—E. J. Smith.
1924/25	29	13	1	15	221	230	
1925/26	24	17	1	6	362	159	1925/26 —C. A. Oliver
1926/27	25	16	2	7	332	157	1926/27 —P. R. Sutton.
1927/28	26	12	2	12	254	256	1927/28 —H. L. T. Ritchings.
1928/29	26	11		15	202	294	1928/29 —E. C. Baines.
1929/30	29	12	2	15	165	196	1929/30 —F. D. Gibson.
1930/31	26	7	3	16	172	228	1930/31—32/33—H. V. Middleton.
1931/32	28	9	2	17	197	395	1931/32 J. G. Henderson.
1932/33	27	13	2	12	231	294	1933/34—34/35—G. R. Byers.
1933/34	34	8	4	22	172	367	

Now let us see what our old stalwarts have done for us (alphabetically).

A. E. Allmark.—Original member—General and Selection Committee, 1923/24. County Representative 1925/26 to 1931/32 being on the Cheshire County Union Selection Committee, 1926/7—1927/8.

C. E. Coates.—Joined March 3rd, 1924—Committee 1924/25—Joint Asst. Hon. Secretary, 1925/26. Asst. Hon. Secretary 1926/27 to 1930/31. Hon. Secretary, 1931/32—32/33. Fixture Secretary 1928/29 to 1932/33. County Representative and member of Cheshire Selection Committee, 1932/33.

G. C. Corlett.—Joined the Club as a Schoolboy Hon. Treasurer 1929/30, 30/31, 31/32.

R. C. G. Hayes.—The first Hon. Secretary of the Club.

Dr. W. B. Holdsworth.—Original member and player—first Wilmslow playing member to join the Referees' Society where he early gained recognition of his ability in this respect. Elected a life member May 7th, 1929.

F. R. Kitton.—One of, if not *the*, finest exponent of the game that has ever played for the Club—a certain Captain of the Club had he stayed in the district.

C. J. Long.—Original member—Hon. Asst. Treasurer 1925/26. Hon. Treasurer, 1928/29. Elected life member, 7-5-29.

L. Makinson.—Original Chairman—Vice-President since inception. Selector 1924/25. Pet hobby in life, "Public School-boys' Games," it is worth while quoting a minute of January 3rd, 1927—"That a most cordial vote of thanks be passed to Mr L. Makinson for the magnificent work done by him on behalf of the Schoolboy matches"—We consider his death a great loss to the Club.

C. A. Oliver.—Original member Committee and Vice Captain 1923/24. Fixture Secretary 1924/25. Captain 1925/26.

B. L. Proctor.—Another "original." Committee 1923/24—an old playing stalwart, who has once again taken up Committee work.

W. W. Reynolds.—Original member Committee 1923/24. Evergreen chairman at meetings when things are going *either* way Has done work in proportion to his size, can we say more?

W S. Simpson—A true original was Simpson, one of those who were responsible for their being a Wilmslow Club. Hon. Treasurer from 1066 to end of 1927/28, when he was elected a life member on October 17th, 1927

E. J. Smith—An original who was the Club's 1st Captain for Season 1923/24, 1924/25. Assistant Secretary in 1924/25, and Committee man. If all our players would put their heart into their play as much as "E. J." did, we should have three first teams. News! we hope that "E. J." will be able to play in the opening match on the occasion of the "baptism" of the new ground.

T Warburton—No record of the Club would be complete without mention of "Tom"—an old player with a heart for a young player as big as his frame. From the formation of the Club to the time of his death, in 1932, he served the club as only he could, as groundsman and a friend to both home and visiting members. May we quote the minute recalling his untimely death?

"It was unanimously decided to put on record the deep loss that the Club had sustained by the loss of our groundsman, Tom Warburton. It was decided to put on record the high esteem in which he had been held by all and every member of the W.R.U.F.C."

And now to 1934/5, and those who are to carry on.

President, H. Buxton, Esq. Original member Committee, 1923/24. Hon. Secretary from January 14th, 1924, to end of season 1930/31. President 1931/32 to this day. No club has the honour of having a member who has worked harder for his club or for the game.

Hon. Secretary, G. B. Gething. An original member, joining the Club as a Schoolboy, who as early as November 1925, was elected "B" Captain and Committee man, has worked solidly for the Club since that date. Assistant Hon. Secretary from February 1933 to January 1934. Hon. Fixture Secretary from February, 1933 to March, 1934. Hon. Secretary from February, 1934 to date.

Hon. Treasurer, G. R. Byers. An original member, joining the Club as a schoolboy served on Committees in his early associations with the Club, became Assistant Hon. Treasurer in 1929-30 to end of season 1930-31—Hon. Treasurer, 1932/33 to date. Does not know how to issue a bad balance sheet. Has a good playing record—had abominable luck when twice chosen to play in Cheshire County Trials—better luck next time. Captained the Club, 1933-34, actively until breaking his leg, and afterwards from the "Touchline"—again elected Captain for 1934-35. Every good wish as "Skipper" of the Pownall Club.

Assistant Hon. Secretaries, P R. Sutton and L. H. D. Hodges. Sutton joined the Club in 1925, has served on Committees intermittently from joining to date. Captained the Club in 1926/27, became Assistant Hon. Secretary in February 1934. Has spent ten years in endeavouring to find a really good ground for the Club, and has now, at last, realised his ambition in securing the Club's new ground at Pownall Park. Hodges joined the Club in 1928, served on Committees, Vice-Captain of the Club in season 1932/33 and 1933/34, taking over the Captaincy on the field when Byers was injured. Assistant Hon. Secretary, 1934/35.

Assistant Hon. Treasurers, G. M. Corlett and G. W. C. Jackson. Corlett joined the Club as a Schoolboy in January 1929, has followed in the footsteps of his brother, G. C. (a late Hon. Treasurer) by becoming Assistant Treasurer for 1934/35. Jackson also joined as a Schoolboy in September 1932, served on Committee, 1933/34. Assistant Hon. Treasurer for 1934/35.

Hon. Fixture Secretary W J. Vaughton. A comparatively new member, joining the Club in November 1933. Used to play for our friends, the Birmingham Club, Aston Old Edwardians. Became Fixture Secretary in February 1934, and carries on this coming Season.

County Representative, A. W. Mitchell. Joined the Club in September 1932. Is a Scotsman, and in his playing days, assisted the West of Scotland Club. Served on our Committee and Selection Committee during the latter part of 1932/33 season, became County Representative for season 1933/34, and continues we hope, for many years to come.

Representative to Manchester and District Referees' Society, H. L. G. Stewart. Joined the Club in February 1930. Has served on Committees from 1931/32 onwards, just elected to present office for the coming season.

Committee.—The Committee elected for the coming season is, without doubt, the strongest and most noteworthy in the History of the Club. It is constituted as follows, given alphabetically

E. C. Baines.—An original member joining the Club in April, 1923, has served at one time and another on every Committee and Sub-Committee. Captained the Club, 1928/29.

G. E. Baines.—Also an original member, played in first match on September 22nd, 1923, has served on Committees all through the history of the Club, except for a break lately due to a business appointment in North Wales. We give him a hearty welcome back to our ranks.

J. S. Clegg.—Another original member Team Secretary, 1924/25, and Joint Assistant Hon. Secretary 1925/26. One of our early good forwards on the playing field and one whom we welcome back to Committee work.

S. Dronsfield.—Another member of long standing and one of our keenest supporters—we have only just succeeded in persuading him to take up Committee work—his Rugger experience will be invaluable.

R. Edwards.—Joined the Club in December 1924, since then he has done noble work in the Referees' Society we offer him a very hearty welcome as a new Committee man.

J. R. Ferguson.—Joined upon leaving school in January, 1931, one of our best playing members, has played regularly for the 1st XV since joining, whenever his services were not required by Manchester University for whom he played regularly in the Christie Cup competition in 1933/34. Should prove an excellent Committee man.

R. E. Holt.—Joined as a schoolboy in September 1928, has served on Committee before. Last season, 1933/34, Vice Captain "A" XV., again elected Vice Captain "A" XV for coming season, a very hard working Playing Committee man.

D. Lomas.—An original member one of the hardest workers in the Club, both on and off the field. "A" XV Captain, 1931/32 and 1933/34. Assistant Hon. Treasurer, 1933/34.

A. E. Turner.—Joined as a schoolboy in September, 1930, a good player and a hard working Committee man. Served on Committee 1933/34. Acted as Vice Captain of 1st. XV. 1933/34, after Byers' accident.

D. S. Vernon.—A new member of the Committee but an old Rugger man and full of enthusiasm. We offer him a hearty welcome to our Committee.

J. S. Westcot.—Joined the Club as a Varsity Member in 1925, a good forward, excellent Committee man, the Club's Hon. Architect who is looking after the Plans and building of our NEW HOME.

J. B. G. Whittaker.—Comes last alphabetically but, we think probably first from a record point of view. Joined the Club in October 1929. He is, of course, the old Manchester North of England and Lancashire County forward, now one of the very best referees and a prominent member of the Referees' Society has helped the Club in many ways with his playing experience, now, we know he will give us even greater help as a Committee man. We extend to him a very hearty welcome to our Committee.

Captains.

1st VX. G. R. Byers.—Mentioned above, here, we can only wish him a very successful season.

Vice Captain. T. P. Hough.—A rare worker both on the field and in the Club, loves a good hard game. We wish him every success as Vice Captain.

A " XV W J. Vaughton.—Also mentioned above, is sure to have a good season as the "A" fellows are so solid behind him. However we wish him luck.

Vice Captain. R. E. Holt.—Again, already mentioned. Here, the same remarks apply as they do to his Captain.

T Hope, Jr.—Although, not now active on Committees, we do not think our list of Present Officials is complete without mention of T Hope. He originally joined the Club in November, 1923, became a member of the Committee in April, 1932, Assistant Hon. Secretary 1933, Hon. Secretary in February 1933 until January 1934, when, unfortunately compelled to resign Office due to the calls of business. He still takes a very active interest in the Club and we hope it will not be long before we are able to persuade him to return to Committee work.

Groundsmen.

T. Wardle.—'Tommy' Wardle became our groundsman in 1932, after the death of Tom Warburton, who, he had very ably assisted for many seasons up to that time. He has followed in the footsteps of his predecessor and has served the Club well and is as popular with everyone as the late Tom." We hope that he will continue for many years to come. We must not leave out his very able assistant Oswald, we hope that someday in the future he will become our groundsman, but, with all due respect to him, we hope it is a long way off, Tommy's innings is, we hope, by no means nearly completed.

C. E. White.—Joined the Club in December, 1931, upon leaving the Army. As a player a real good forward who absolutely revels in hard work. Has never, in his own opinion, done enough for the Club, we think he will eventually kill himself with "Re-turfing" work. Has spent all this summer working in charge of the gang on the new ground. We cannot thank him enough. Is now living within a few yards of our NEW HOME and is to act in future as our Club Steward. No Club could wish for a more willing and able man.

Old Members.

The Committee invite any old members of the Club to attend the opening match on the New Ground on Wednesday October 3rd, 1934, and would be glad if old members will introduce themselves to the Committee.

The following extract is supplied to us by the courtesy of the *Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser*

Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser Friday September 21st, 1923.

The team to meet Kersal in the first match of the Wilmslow Rugby Club will be selected from the following A. N. Other, T. A. Hulme, C. B. Heap, J. C. Mather, E. T. Evans, C. A. Oliver, J. E. Earle, E. J. Smith (Captain), W. B. Houldsworth, B. I. Proctor, J. West, H. B. Kauntz, A. O. G. Williams, R. H. Byers, G. C. Humphreys, J. J. Faulkner, Seymour Hill. The team chosen is well-experienced and should render a good account of itself and be worthy of the traditions of Rugby football in Wilmslow. It includes the sons of some of our well-known residents, also men from Cheadle Hulme, Alderley, and Mobberley. The admission to the ground will be 8d. and 1s. 3d. to the reserved side, boys 3d. inclusive of tax. All ladies free.

Of this match, the following report appeared in the *Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser* of September 28th.

"On Saturday last, the newly-formed Rugby Club in Wilmslow played its opening match, against Kersal, on its own ground in Land Lane, a large number of spectators being present. From the outset it was seen that the home team was handicapped considerably by the lack of weight of its forwards, but as this is more often than not the case of new clubs, doubtless as time goes on it will remedy itself. The visitors' pack, on the contrary, was very heavy and consequently its halves gained possession of the ball from the scrum on most occasions and so the three-quarters who combined much better than their opponents, were always at an advantage, but, of course, the local club has not yet had the time or much opportunity to learn the true art of combination and the individualities of the players, also several players, probably in the excitement of the game forgot one of the golden rules of Rugby football, tackle your opponent low and on more than one occasion we saw an attempt to grasp a player round the neck, which naturally ended in failure.

On the other hand, there was some fine tackling by the Wilmslow defence, which prevented the margin from being wider. In the first half, the visitors scored three unconverted tries to Wilmslow's nil. In the second half, J. C. Mather scored for Wilmslow, E. J. Smith failing to kick a goal, while Kersal scored four further tries, their scorers being A. D. Bateman (3), S. B. L. Jacks (2), W. Spilbey and W. F. Howarth, and although only two of the visitors' attempts at kicking goals were in any way difficult angle, all the seven resulted in failure, and it is a long time since we saw such poor attempts. Thus a most enjoyable game resulted in a win for Kersal by 21 points to 3. As this was the club's first match, it would be obviously unfair to praise or criticise individual players and we have no doubt a rapid improvement will be seen in the very near future, and Wilmslow will soon record its first victory as it has a number of most enthusiastic players, and only practice and experience is required to make a worthy successor of the Rugby Club of former days. A.M."

A correspondent wrote :—"The weather proved all that could be desired when the teams lined up under the able refereeing of Mr. Bowker. They presented a fine appearance of all that manliness stands for, full of pluck, dash and endurance. The green sward was a fine setting for the colours of the opposing sides' uniforms. On the game being started, it was soon seen that the Wilmslow forwards were no match for their much heavier adversaries, who dominated the "scrums," which were frequent but in the back division, it was quite another matter, for the home backs were the equal of their opponents. Oliver, Wilmslow's scrum-half, frequently smothered the efforts of Jacks, his opposing half, and what few chances the home backs had were taken advantage of, but to relieve the pressure put up by the visiting forwards. The result in favour of Kersal is quite gratifying to the Wilmslow team, who, although beaten, are a long way from being disheartened. Heap and Mather the centre-threequarters, ran strongly and well. Wilmslow's only try scored by Mather was the result of a piece of play worthy of a veteran, as after a good run, being threatened by his opposing centre, he kicked over his head, and, beating him in the race for the ball, scored a try far out, the kick at goal failing. Mather is a player who should go a long way in the game.

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Fixtures

Sept. 1934 First Fifteen

8	Practice	H.
15	Practice	H.
22	Old Birkonians	A.
29	Bury	A.
Oct.		
6	Shrewsbury	H.
13	Old Bradfordians ...	H.
20	Sheffield	H.
27	Rochdale	H.
Nov		
3	Old Lerpooilians	A.
10	Oldham	H.
17	Shrewsbury	A.
24	Heaton Moor	H.
Dec.		
1	Kersal ..	A.
8	Prestwich	H.
15	Metrovick ...	H.
22	Preston Grasshoppers	A.
26	Warrington	A.
29	St. Helens O.B	H.
Jan. 1935		
1	Heaton Moor	A.
5	Stoke O.P.S.	H.
12	Bury	H.
19	Davenport ..	A.
26	Old Bradfordians	A.
Feb.		
2	Bolton	H.
9	Prestwich ...	A.
16	Old Lerpooilians	H.
23	Rochdale	A.
Mar		
2	Oldham	A.
9	Kersal	H.
16	Warrington	H.
23	St. Helens O.B.	A.
30	Bolton	A.
April		
6	Bowdon ..	H.
13	Preston Grasshoppers	H.
20	Old Leodiensians ..	H.
May		
22	Davenport ...	H.

Second Fifteen

1934	
Sept.	
8	Practice
15	Toc H
22	Davenport
29	Bury
Oct.	
6	Sedgley Park 1st
13	Old Bradfordians
20	Sheffield
27	Rochdale
Nov	
3	Old Lerpooilians
10	Oldham
17	Toc H
24	Heaton Moor
Dec.	
1	Kersal
8	Prestwich ..
15	Davenport
22	Preston Grasshoppers
29	St. Helens O.B
1935	
Jan	
1	Heaton Moor
5	Stoke O.P.S.
12	Bury
19	Bowdon
26	Old Bradfordians
Feb.	
2	Bolton
9	Prestwich ...
16	Old Lerpooilians
23	Rochdale
March	
2	Oldham
9	Kersal
16	Warrington
23	St. Helens O.B
30	Bolton
April	
6	Bowdon
13	Preston Grasshoppers

Third Fifteen.

	1934		
	Sept.		
H.	8	Practice	H.
A.	15	Toc H	H.
H.	22	Davenport	A.
H.	29	Bolton	H.
	Oct.		
H.	6	Metrovick ...	A.
A.	13	Manchester Varsity	H.
A.	20	Eccles	A.
A.	27	Rochdale ..	H
	Nov		
H.	3	Didsbury	A.
H.	10	Oldham	H.
A	17	Toc H	A.
	24	Heaton Moor	A
	Dec.		
H.	1	Kersal	A.
A.	8	Orrel A	H.
A.	15	Davenport	H.
A.	22	Preston Grasshoppers	A.
	29	St. Helens O.B	H.
	1935		
	Jan.		
H.	5	Stoke O.P.S.	H.
A.	12	Manchester	H.
A.	19	Bowdon	H.
H.	26	Metrovick ..	H.
	Feb.		
A.	2	Heaton Moor	H
H.	9	Orrell A	A.
A.	16	Manchester	A.
H.	23	Rochdale ..	A.
	March		
H.	2	Oldham	A.
A.	9	Kersal	H.
A.	16	Didsbury	H.
H.	23	St. Helens O.B.	A.
H.	30	Eccles ..	H.
	April		
H.	6	Bowdon	A.
A.	13	Manchester	H.

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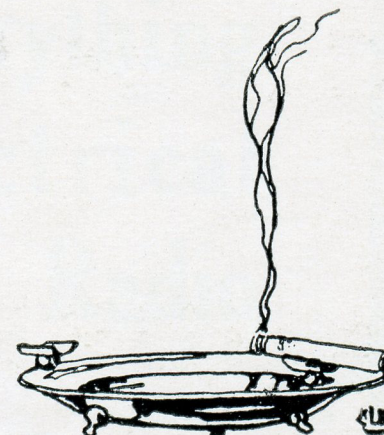
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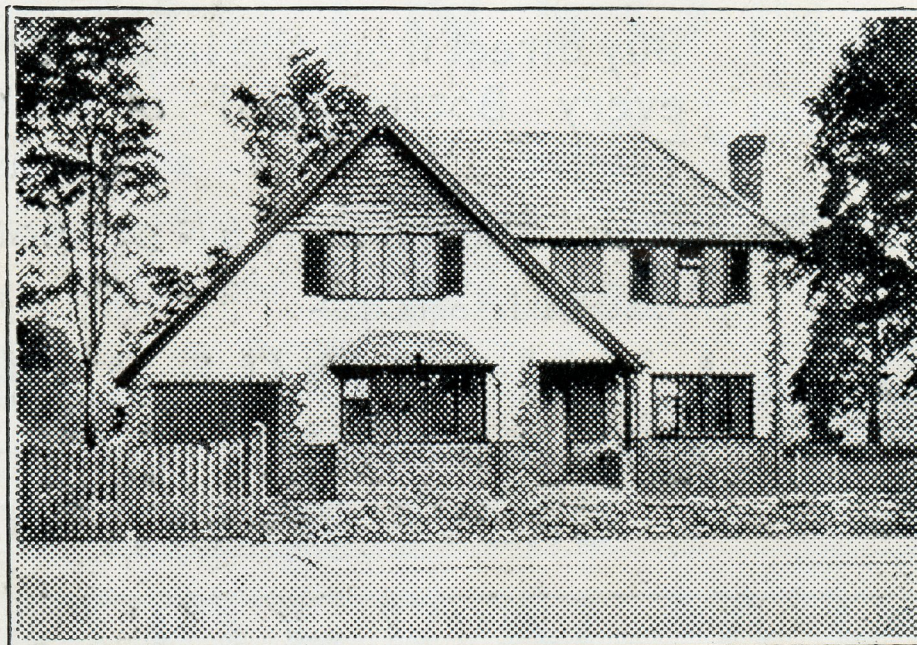
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